

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as shown. Applicants reserve the right to pursue any cancelled claims at a later date.

1.-7. (canceled)

8. (new) A method for negotiating bearer properties in a communication network, comprising:

providing a plurality of Media Gateway Controllers and a plurality of Media Gateways, in which bearer properties are maintained; and

maintaining reference lists in the Media Gateway Controllers, the reference list comprising influenceable bearer properties.

9. (new) The method in accordance with claim 8, wherein a negotiation of the bearer properties are influenced by a configuration undertaken by a network operator.

10. (new) The method in accordance with claim 8, wherein a least one of the Media Gateway Controllers includes a master function for the group of Media Gateways the Media Gateway Controller controls.

11. (new) The method in accordance with claim 8, wherein a negotiation of the communication networks are embodied as IP networks.

12. (new) The method in accordance with claim 8, wherein the bearer properties are embodied as a prioritization of codecs.

13. (new) The method in accordance with claim 8, wherein the bearer properties are embodied as codecs.

14. (new) The method in accordance with claim 13, wherein the bearer properties are embodied as a prioritization of the codecs.

15. (new) The method in accordance with claim 8, wherein a negotiation of the bearer properties is always undertaken via Media Gateway Controllers.
16. (new) The method in accordance with claim 15, wherein the bearer properties are embodied as codecs.
17. (new) The method in accordance with claim 16, wherein a least one of the Media Gateway Controllers includes a master function for the group of Media Gateways the Media Gateway Controller controls.
18. (new) The method in accordance with claim 17, wherein a negotiation of the bearer properties are influenced by a configuration undertaken by a network operator.
19. (new) A method for negotiating bearer properties in a communication network, comprising:
 - providing a first Media Gateway Controller including a reference list having bearer properties, the reference list administrable by a network operator;
 - providing a first Media Gateway communicatively coupled to the first Media Gateway Controller, the first Media Gateway including a reference list having bearer properties;
 - informing the first Media Gateway Controller of a connection set up request;
 - comparing the reference list of the first Media Gateway Controller with a reference list of the first Media Gateway Controller; and
 - forming an intersection of the bearer properties between the compared lists.
20. (new) The method according to claim 19, wherein the intersection is formed by removing the bearer properties in the reference list of the first Media Gateway that are not in the reference list of the first Media Gateway Controller.
21. (new) The method according to claim 19, wherein the intersection is formed by removing the bearer properties in the reference list of the first Media Gateway that are blocked via the reference list of the first Media Gateway Controller.

22. (new) The method according to claim 19, further comprising:
 - providing a second Media Gateway Controller including a reference list having bearer properties;
 - providing a second Media Gateway communicatively coupled to the second Media Gateway Controller and communicatively coupled to the first Media Gateway;
 - notifying the second Media Gateway Controller of the intersection; and
 - determining if the intersection is supported by the second Media Gateway Controller.
23. (new) The method according to claim 22, further comprising:
 - sending a rejection if the reference list of the second Media Gateway Controller does not support a bearer property included in the intersection.
24. (new) The method according to claim 22, further comprising:
 - removing the bearer properties in the intersection that are not in the reference list of the second Media Gateway Controller; and
 - sending the updated intersection to the first Media Gateway.
25. (new) The method according to claim 22, further comprising:
 - removing the bearer properties in the intersection that are blocked by the reference list of the second Media Gateway Controller; and
 - sending the updated intersection to the first Media Gateway.
26. (new) The method in accordance with claim 22, wherein the bearer properties are embodied as a prioritization of codecs.
27. (new) The method in accordance with claim 22, wherein the bearer properties are embodied as codecs.